

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #3
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
June 6, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.
8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
And By Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: LeRoy Salazar, President; Nathan Coombs, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Ruben Sandoval, Manager; Sam Vance, Manager; Warren Crowther, Manager; and, Elliott Salazar, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Doug Bagwell, Manager.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Taylor Chick, Program Manager; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; Michael Carson, Database Administrator; Crystal Benavidez, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; Kelsey Weeks, Intern ASU; and, April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: David Hofmann, Sally Wier, Jennifer Oldem.

Meeting Called to Order

President Salazar called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Elliott Salazar led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

President Salazar asked for changes, additions or a motion to approve the consent agenda items:

- Agenda
- March 7, 2024-Annual Meeting Minutes
- March 7, 2024-Executive Session Minutes
- March 18, 2024-Special Meeting Minutes
- March 18, 2024-Executive Session Minutes
- April 11, 2024-Special Meeting Minutes
- April 11, 2024-Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made by Sam Vance to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ruben Sandoval and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Salazar asked for public comment. There was none.

Attorney's Report

President Salazar asked for the Attorney's report. Pete Ampe reported all SWSP's had been approved and provided an update on the Texas vs New Mexico/Colorado case, the Dredge and Fill Bill, Subdistrict No. 1's Plan of Water Management #4 trial, and the SWAG case. Mr. Ampe reported on the City of Alamosa's augmentation plan and an order issued by the State Engineer in Idaho to shut down 500,000 acres of groundwater irrigated lands.

Program Manager's Report

President Salazar asked for the Program Manager's report.

- *Financial Report:* Angelo Bellah went over the costs covered by the District for formation, expenses since formation and the remaining balance due to the District. He presented the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement. Mr. Bellah reported on the assets, liabilities, equity, loan payables, gross profits and net income. He reported working to spend the money from the CWCB loan.

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salazar and unanimously approved.

- *Update on Ongoing Operations*

Angelo Bellah provided the acre feet of water released from the Rio Grande, the Alamosa and the Conejos Rivers in April, May and June. He gave the current reservoir account balances and reported on the due date of the 2023 Annual Report (AR). Mr. Bellah reported no contracts were actively being worked on and gave an update on the Alpha Hay Farms, Lupita and Taos Valley No. 3 SWSPs. Discussion was held on the health of the pump on the Alpha Hay Farms. Nathan Coombs gave an

update on the El Coda Ditch forbearance agreement negotiations. Mr. Bellah gave an update on the recharge pond, the access road on Tract 9 and reported on the alfalfa growing on tracts 4-8 on the Alpha property. David Hofmann explained the rules in connection with harvesting the alfalfa growing on Subdistrict property. Mr. Bellah gave an update on the Xcel Transmission Line Improvement Project. Staff was directed to continue to work with Colorado Realty and Land on the sale of the Alpha tracts. Mr. Coombs provided an update on the San Antonio Reservoir and the agreed upon PSA. Mr. Bellah updated the Board on the Los Sauces leases and SWSP for the 2025 irrigation season. He also reported on the interest from Tresessa Martinez to participate in the project.

District Engineer's Report-Clinton Phillips

President Salazar asked for the District Engineer's report. Clinton Phillips was not present to report. Angelo Bellah presented the Subdistrict No. 3 Conejos monitoring wells hydrographs. He reported on the baseline average difference in model layer four (4) and three (3). President Salazar commented on the good water year last year and the increase in Con 1, the decrease in Con 2 and the progress toward sustainability.

Weaver-Pine Water Purchase

President Salazar asked for Weaver-Pine water purchase. Angelo Bellah reported on an inquiry to purchase approximately 120.6-acre feet of water rights being stored in Rio Grande Reservoir. Discussion was held on splitting up the purchase/water/costs with Subdistrict No.'s 2, 3, 6 and the Trinchera Subdistrict.

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to purchase the water depending on the negotiations with the Trinchera Subdistrict. The motion was seconded by Sam Vance and unanimously approved.

Colorado Open Lands Update

President Salazar asked for an update from Colorado Open Lands. Sally Wier reported on funding available from NRCS to help with land management and the challenges with appraisals associated with groundwater easements. Ms. Wier reported on their continued efforts with Senator Bennetts office on groundwater easements in the Farm Bill.

Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Concerning the Purchase of Real Property

President Salazar asked for an executive session to receive legal advice concerning the purchase of real property. A motion was made at 9:35 a.m. by Nathan Coombs to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Warren Crowther and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ampe stated the Board was entering into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) to receive legal advice concerning the purchase of real property. The Board would take no formal action or position during the executive session.

Possible Action from Executive Session

President Salazar asked for possible action from the executive session. A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to authorize staff to move forward with negotiations on the purchase of a portion of the Faucette well at \$3,000 per acre foot based on the ability to legally withdrawal groundwater as a proportion of pumping with Subdistrict No. 6 and possibly Trinchera Subdistricts. The motion was seconded by Sam Vance and unanimously approved.

New Business

President Salazar asked for new business. A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to authorize staff to move forward with investigation/potential repair of pump on the Alpha property. The motion was seconded by Elliott Salzar and unanimously approved.

Discussion was held on the requirement to go through the bidding process if the repair costs exceed \$10,000.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for September 5, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

President


Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer